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Afghan Agricultural Research and Extension Development Program (AGRED)



Monthly Report

September 2013

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Afghan Agricultural Research & Extension Development Program (AGRED)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:	3
ACHIEVEMENTS IN SEPTEMBER:	4
On-Budget Support	4
A NOTE ON THE REPORTING FORMAT CHANGE	4
MAIL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR ON-BUDGET PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS	4
IMPLEMENTATION LETTER 1	4
PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT MONTH	7
Off Budget Support	8
A NOTE ON THE REPORTING FORMAT CHANGE	8
STRATEGIC GOAL A	8
Benchmark A.2	8
Technical Assistance	8
Result.....	9
Benchmark A.3	9
Technical Assistance	9
Result:.....	9
Benchmark A.4	9
Technical Assistance	9
Result.....	10
Strategic Goal A - Activities Planned for Next Month	11
STRATEGIC GOAL C	12
Benchmark C1	12
Technical Assistance	12
Result.....	12
Benchmark C.2.....	12
Technical Assistance	12
Result.....	13
Strategic Goal C - Activities Planned for Next Month.....	13
STRATEGIC GOAL E	13
Benchmark E1.....	14
Technical Assistance	14
Result.....	14
STRATEGIC GOAL F	14
STRATEGIC GOAL G	14
Annex 1	16
Draft List of Strategic Goals and Benchmarks	16
Annex 2	1
Current Mini-Proposals	1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

For this monthly report we have switched to a format in anticipation of the start of on-budget funding. Going forward, AGRED will report on the activities in support of each of the On-Budget Performance Benchmarks. Only active benchmarks addressed in the reporting period will be included in the body of the report, though a full list will be included as an annex. This change in our reporting format is representative of the vast progress made on the key documents for the on-budget process and of the impending start of on-budget work and the corresponding off-budget support. However, it is important to note that **until the Implementation Plan for On-Budget Performance Benchmarks is finalized, the AGRED Off-budget work plan cannot be finalized** nor can it serve as a guideline for the reporting format or content.

The AGRED team worked in close collaboration with both USAID and MAIL to finalize the key documents for the on-budget process. The MAIL Implementation Plan for On-Budget Performance Benchmarks is in final draft stage and the first Implementation Letter and the supporting documents are also in final draft stage. Once these documents have been finalized the Roots of Peace Off-Budget Work Plan can also be finalized.

ROP's partners at MAIL are under extreme pressure to finalize IL1 as the deadline for including on-budget funds on the MOF development budget is looming. MAIL has been moving very quickly to respond to USAID comments and requests for revisions to the IL documents. The review process at USAID has been slow and further delays will impact the program. As this is one of the initial on-budget programs for USAID, some delays could be expected, but we must initiate the on-budget portion of this program as soon as possible. **We request priority support from USAID, specifically from OFM and SPME.**

AGRED's Off-Budget focus continues to be on mini-proposal development and implementation. Thirteen mini-projects are under implementation, while two additional projects were vetted and approved by DAIL Directors in Paktya and Faryab, and were submitted to the AGRED COP for final approval and funding. Two more projects are under review by DAIL Directors in Herat.

AGRED Women's Extension Department remains highly active in organize stakeholders around the country to represent women farmer needs. The Women Provincial Coordinators are forging relationships with university faculties and holding meetings with the various departments at MAIL and DAIL to ensure close coordination to incorporate women's issues in research and extension.

Lastly, a formal letter from MAIL introducing AGRED program and staff to DAIL Directors is still forthcoming. Without this formal letter DAIL staff participation is quite low in some areas as DAIL Directors have not recognized the work with AGRED.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN SEPTEMBER:

On-Budget Support

A NOTE ON THE REPORTING FORMAT CHANGE

As an introductory note for this section of this new reporting format, AGRED will report only on the *support* provided to MAIL for On-Budget processes, coordination, documents, etc. This section will not serve as a report on On-Budget progress as MAIL is responsible for providing these reports directly to USAID.

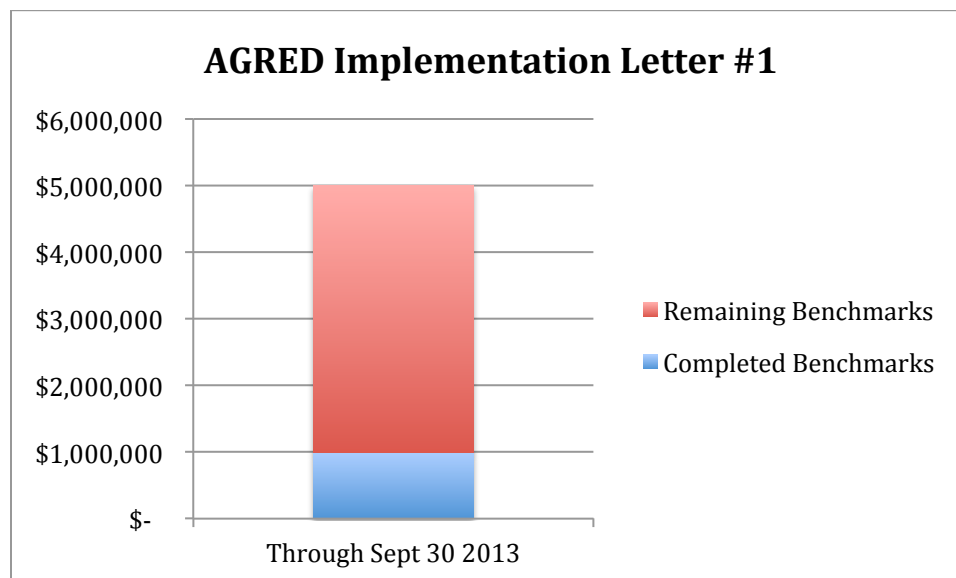
MAIL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR ON-BUDGET PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

As of the close of September, the Implementation Plan (IP) is in the final draft stage, however USAID requested that MAIL move forward to develop the first Implementation Letter (IL1) before finalizing the IP. As IL1 represents a large portion of the work to be completed under the benchmarks, the IP will be updated with all changes needed.

The AGRED off-budget work plan is also delayed until the IP is finalized, as all off-budget support is dependent upon the IP. The off-budget work plan is in the process of being drafted.

IMPLEMENTATION LETTER 1

Figure 1: IL1 Estimated Costs and Amount for Completed Actions



The first Implementation Letter (IL1) was the major focus of activity throughout the month of September. USAID, MAIL, and ROP coordinated extensively to draft, review and revise the supporting documentation to IL1. The supporting documentation provides a detailed plan for each benchmark included in IL1 addressing actions to be taken, documentation needed to verify completion of each action, the timeframe, and a budget laying out potential associated cost for each action.

At the request of USAID, the AGREED team assisted MAIL's relevant directorate to break each benchmark into "actions." Actions represent the steps that will be taken to achieve each benchmark. A means of verification was then designated for each action.

The means of verification list an output for each action in IL1. The output serves to show that a system or process is functioning or that a new policy is being applied. Each output will be submitted to USAID as evidence of improvements to, or establishment of, a MAIL or DAIL system.

Table 1: Sample from Means of Verification for IL1

Benchmark A.2— DAILs systematically design research and extension activities that directly address specific issues faced by farmers/herders.		\$82,692
<i>Action 1: Develop guidelines that address application of needs assessment data to plan and implement research and extension activities, with gender considerations incorporated.</i>	MAIL Approved Guideline Document that outlines methods of designing, planning, and implementing Research and Extension activities based on assessed needs.	\$44,500
<i>Action 2: Develop research and extension activity plan template that DAILs will use to transform the information from each needs assessments in to actionable plans to implement research and extension activities, with gender considerations incorporated.</i>	MAIL Approved Research and Extension Activity Plan Template for DAILs Use. This template will present the problem identified, proposed actions and timeframe. .	\$38,192

Further, a detailed budget was created to provide an associated cost for each action. Ultimately the goal of this further detail was to enable USAID to identify when a benchmark is partially complete and issue payment accordingly.

The table below shows the budget for each benchmark and a total for each strategic goal. Each benchmark line can be expanded to breakdown the total by action. It is important to note that the amounts included do not represent the cost to produce a final, single deliverable but an illustrative cost to establish the process or system. The budget for each line is illustrative and represents a general plan by which MAIL will pay for the completion of each action. As is also shown in Figure 1, the section highlighted in green represents the total for those actions that have already been completed and for which MAIL anticipates submitting documentation to USAID very soon after IL1 is signed.

Table 2: Budget Summary for IL1

Strategic Goal/Benchmarks	IL1 Total
Benchmark A.1	\$364,190
Benchmark A.2	\$82,692
Benchmark A.3	\$104,580
Benchmark A.4	\$555,720
Total Strategic Goal A	\$1,107,181
Benchmark B.1	\$442,167
Benchmark B.2	\$24,613
Benchmark B.3	\$46,251
Total Strategic Goal B	\$513,031
Benchmark C.1	\$207,402
Benchmark C.2	\$113,875
Total Strategic Goal C	\$321,277
Benchmark D.1	\$174,360
Total Strategic Goal D	\$174,360
Benchmark E.1	\$646,200
Total Strategic Goal E	\$646,200

Benchmark F.1	\$721,225
Total Strategic Goal F	\$721,225
Benchmark G.2	\$125,125
Total Strategic Goal G	\$125,125
Benchmark H.1	\$184,385
Total Strategic Goal H	\$184,385
Benchmark I.1	\$180,725
Total Strategic Goal I	\$180,725
TOTAL	\$3,973,508
Total Actions Met	\$920,350

Once IL1 is signed, ROP and MAIL will move quickly to begin work on the actions and benchmarks. MAIL is already discussing plans for a conference on November 9-10 and/or TOT event to launch the program with the DAILs late this fall. The event will present DAILs with the roadmap necessary to access on-budget funding, and with the plan for training, workshops and support they will receive.

The AGREED team also reviewed MAIL's drafted Guiding Manual on the Provincial Development Projects and provided constructive feedback to enrich this document. Finalization and approval of this document by the Planning and Programs Directorate will result completion of an action under the benchmark A1.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT MONTH

MAIL will be finalizing the documents for IL1 and will submit to USAID in early October. **USAID's assistance is requested** to provide a swift review of the documents as MAIL very much needs to finalize the Implementation Letter in order to include funds in this budgeting period. Revisions will be incorporated and turned around quickly to ensure that this process continues to keep moving.

The Implementation Plan will also be picked up in October, with MAIL and AGREED working to incorporate changes and finalize this document also. Once this document is finalized, AGREED and MAIL will move quickly to begin planning and hiring for the implementation of the various benchmarks.

Other collaboration for benchmark preparation implementation includes continued discussion of a DAIL conference between MAIL and AGRED; other partners will be considered and included in discussions as is necessary. Additionally, the DAIL proposal process is under development, both MAIL and AGRED have drafted documents to represent the current process with suggested changes.

Off Budget Support

A NOTE ON THE REPORTING FORMAT CHANGE

AGRED will be reporting on the support provided to MAIL for each of the nine strategic goals (A-I) and the associated benchmarks. Only the benchmarks that have been addressed during the reporting period will be incorporated into the body of the report so as to maintain a focus on current activities and accomplishments and avoid repetition from month to month. **A complete list of the strategic goals and benchmarks is included as Annex 1.** Any changes to the strategic goals or benchmarks will be incorporated into the format at the time of the change.

STRATEGIC GOAL A

Bottom up Research and Extension Planning Approach to Addressing Farmers'/Herder's issues

AGRED is facilitating mini projects at DAILs in order to build skills that will tie-in to different aspects of the four benchmarks of Strategic Goal A, with particular emphasis on benchmark A.4, the systematic implementation of research and extension projects by MAIL. A full list of mini-projects is included as Annex 2.

Benchmark A.2

DAILs systematically design research and extension activities that directly address specific issues faced by farmers.

Technical Assistance

A training on Experimental Design was held on September 11, 2013 with 19 DAIL staff members from the Kandahar DAIL attending. Topics discussed included: experimental design, preparing cost effective budgets, data collection tools, and what data to look for.

A proposal writing workshop was held for extension staff in Zabul on best practices including: program objective(s), determining direct and indirect beneficiaries, proposing a budget, project justification, project summary, demonstration methods and establishing the roles/responsibilities of DAIL staff.

Result

The training held at Kandahar DAIL on Experimental Design proctored a pre and posttest that showed 70%-80% increase in knowledge of topics discussed.

Benchmark A.3

MAIL Institutionalizes ability to vet research and extension work plans submitted by DAILs for technical financial validity.

Technical Assistance

The AGREED team provided technical advice to the DAIL Director on the review and approval of two mini-projects proposals. DAIL Directors in Paktya and Faryab each successfully vetted a mini-project. The Paktya DAIL Director developed and submitted a mini-project for the research department to evaluate plastic tunnels and in Faryab the DAIL Director submitted an extension project for wheat demo plots. After MAIL's endorsement, these projects will be fully funded by the off-budget components of the program.

With the support of the AGREED team the DAIL staff develop project proposals and after MAIL endorsement, the AGREED COP approves them. Once this process is transferred to on-budget funding, the appropriate department head at MAIL will complete the secondary review and approval before funds are issued. Two more mini-projects are still under review; AGREED is assisting with the process.

Result:

The technical assistance provided by AGREED enabled the DAIL staff to better understand if they should or should not propose mini-projects. This will eventually lead towards DAILs/MAIL ability to independently develop and vet proposals in the future.

Benchmark A.4

DAILs systematically implement MAIL-approved research and extension work plans.

Technical Assistance

AGRED continues to support mini-project development and implementation. AGREED support includes help with proposal development, project budgeting, and various aspects of project



Laghman Province, Rice Demo Plot

implementation like demo plot establishment, monitoring, evaluation and field days. This process will build DAILs' capacities as the DAIL staff work alongside AGRED staff throughout the process.

AGRED has been busy in the month of September working on the various stages of implementation of mini extension and research projects. See Annex 2 for a summary of mini-projects under implementation in an easy to read format.

Result

A number of results related to mini-projects are being monitored on an ongoing basis. The AGRED M&E department has been monitoring the results of the research and extension mini-projects, however given the aim of the mini-projects has to do with the progress towards benchmark completion the real impact will be seen when DAIL staff is enabled to preform every functionary step.

Related to this, AGRED training team conducted series of trainings on poultry management and the below table depicts the results of a proficiency test taken before and after a poultry farm management training course, the test consisted of 80 questions.

Table 3: Poultry Farm Management Training Course Pre/Post Testing

No	Name	Pre-test	Post-test
1	Khairullah	38	53
2	Azizullah	43	72
3	Gull Nazar	24	56
4	Mohammad Shayeeq	34	52
5	Ekramuddin	48	64
6	Abdul Basir	25	66
7	Mohammad Essa	28	78
8	Mohammad Zafar	36	60
9	Sardar Mohammad	38	54
10	Mohammad Qurban	38	50
11	HamtaFaqirzada	36	60
12	Farima	12	52
13	Nasima	16	62
14	Jamila	18	60
15	Nazia	10	66

16	ShukriaMuradi	12	56
17	Marzia	14	55
18	Shafiqa	18	61
19	Mina	32	58
20	Shukria	12	60



Poultry Farm Management Training in Takhar Province



Poultry Farm Management Training in Kapisa Province,
16-18 September 2013

Table 4: Project Implementation Course Training Attendee Summary

Title of the course	No. female	No. male	Total
Poultry Farming Management Training course in Takhar	10	10	20
Poultry Farm Management Training course in Badakshan	2	19	21
Poultry Farm Management Training course in Kapisa	0	20	20
Total	12	49	61

Strategic Goal A - Activities Planned for Next Month

- Workshops and trainings on project proposal writing, analysis, vetting, approval and implementation.
- Supervision of research and extension demonstration plots and mini projects

STRATEGIC GOAL C

Systematic institutional incorporation of gender into research and extension plans and activities

Though work on Strategic Goal C has not formally begun, AGRED has been building relationships with the relevant departments at MAIL and DAILs. AGRED female Provincial Coordinators have been holding meetings and working to prepare other stakeholders for the on-budget work through the development of working groups that can advise on the needs of women farmers and herders in order to inform MAIL policy and programs.

AGRED is also using these networks and working groups to hold trainings to build capacity in agriculture related knowledge and techniques. The women trained will provide a foundation for network for recruitment as well as the beginnings of a pool of personnel to serve women farmers and herders.

Benchmark C1

Mail institutionalizes a policy to ensure each research and extension activity addresses gender. (Women farmers/herders directly benefit from these activities)

Technical Assistance

AGRED staff facilitated technical meetings with MAIL/DAILs Extension, Research, Gender, and Home Economy departments. These meetings were held in an effort to incorporate gender into all research and extension policies and procedures at MAIL.

Result

Improved networking among MAIL related departments is resulting in improved incorporation of gender into extension and research programs and activities. The meetings helped to identify opportunities within MAIL and DAILs to increase the capacity of women employees and how to better reach women farmers.

Benchmark C.2

MAIL plans and implements a system to recruit female research and extension workers to ensure that MAIL can serve women farmers/herders

Technical Assistance

AGRED has been working diligently with DAILs to form provincial working groups for women. AGRED's female Provincial Coordinators are working in each of the seven target provinces to:

- Assist DAIL to develop mini-proposals based on women farmers needs

- Offer project endorsements for member initiative based women farmer priorities/needs
- Advise DAILs to expand extension and research projects for women farmers
- Build provincial capacity of women extension/research staff.

A two-day workshop was conducted to train DAIL women extension workers in Herat. This workshop was held in the plant production department and discussed cultivation of Mung beans in Afghanistan, Mung bean biological properties, viable varieties in Afghanistan, crop rotation, application of fertilizer, land preparation, seed selection, methods of cultivation, irrigation, weeding, harvesting and storage.

Result

Although the working groups are in their infancy, the groups will help to develop more women qualified in the field of agriculture. In order for AGRED to successfully help MAIL incorporate gender into leadership roles and meet the needs of female farmers, there needs to be qualified women to hire for these position. The WIAWG will help work towards that ultimate goal.

Workshops, such as this one on Mung bean cultivation, help to build the capacity of women extension workers to serve the needs of women farmers.

Strategic Goal C - Activities Planned for Next Month

The AGRED Women's extension department will continue to create working groups at provincial levels, working towards integrating gender in the planning process for the implementation plan at MAIL. Coordination meetings are planned with USAID OAB IP gender team as well as meetings with provincial DAIL staff and working with research, extension, and home economics departments.

STRATEGIC GOAL E

An effective monitoring and evaluation system

A new Director of Monitoring and Evaluation joined AGRED during the month of September. Dr. Faustino Ccama comes with an extensive background in USAID program M&E and several years of experience in Afghanistan. Dr. Faustino Ccama will be leading the technical assistance for Strategic Goal E as well as AGRED's off-budget M&E activities.

Benchmark E1

MAIL designs and implements a monitoring and evaluation system which is capable of capturing activity outputs and outcomes

Technical Assistance

Though work on this benchmark has not officially begun, the AGRED M&E staff is assisting DAILs with mini-project assessments. During the month of September, AGRED M&E unit conducted field-monitoring visits in Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

Result

Findings of the visits show that 80% of monitored mini projects were selected based on stakeholder workshop whereas the remaining two mini projects were selected based on MAIL request and a USAID/CHAMP assessment.

Findings also show that all demo plots and research trials were established in appropriate locations and plots are easily accessible and visible to farmers. The monitored projects have sufficient irrigation for the demo plots. There were no signboards near to the demo plots even in secure areas. Overall, the findings also report low DAIL staff participation on the projects as DAIL Directors have not yet received a formal introduction to AGRED.

Mini-project monitoring is ongoing.



Monitoring visit from Rice Cultivation Plot in Laghman Province

STRATEGIC GOAL F

Effective and transparent system for funding MAIL/DAIL activities addressing farmers' needs

Work for Strategic Goal F has not officially begun, though it is important to recognize that AGRED's work with DAILs on the mini-proposals is increasing DAILs' familiarity with project budgeting processes. This early work with AGRED off-budget mini-proposals is preparing DAILs for on-budget funding.

STRATEGIC GOAL G

Strengthening relationships with Afghan Universities

Work for Strategic Goal G has not officially begun, however, AGRED and DAIL staff are working with Agriculture faculties to invite students to participate in relevant trainings and field days. This early involvement will ease the incorporation of university staff and students at later stages, and strengthen relationships of DAILs to universities.

On Sep 14, 2013 a field day was held for the Ghazni Agriculture Faculty and students from the Agriculture Institute in Khwaja Baqal village. The field day was led by Ghazni DAIL with technical and financial support of AGRED staff. In attendance were three professors and the Ghazni university director, two institute lecturers and eighty-seven students (62 from the agriculture faculty and 20 from the agriculture institute) participated.

The AGRED Ghazni PEC explained project goals and objectives and provided information about the Saffron extension project activities such as the importance of saffron, and all stages of the saffron plant from cultivation up to processing (land selection, land preparation, design and layout, cultivation methods, planting techniques, weeding, harvesting and processing).

The Ghazni University Director, Mr. Abdul Qadeer Khamoosh said, "I am so thankful to AGRED and DAIL for conducting such a useful program and for giving a chance to agriculture students for practical work." He added, "This is the first time that our students invited for practical work." The University Director urged AGRED and DAIL and all those organizations that are working in the field of agriculture to arrange such useful practical programs for those students studying agriculture.

On September 22, 2013 AGRED Gender Coordinator conducted a coordination meeting among Dean of Agriculture Faculty, AAEP DCOP and MAIL Gender director in Agriculture faculty, Kabul University, and Kabul DAIL staff. In this meeting discussion was of how MAIL can benefit from a relationship with the Agriculture faculty. Benefits identified include:

- Increased capacity within the national agriculture research agencies through an expanded professional network
- A better prepared pool of future MAIL/DAIL employee candidates
- An overall stronger agriculture sector
- Involvement of female Ag. teachers and the fourth class students Ag. Faculty in Women In Agriculture Working Groups

Annex 1

Draft List of Strategic Goals and Benchmarks¹

Strategic Goal A: Bottom-up research and extension planning approach to addressing farmers'/herders' issues
Benchmark A.1— DAILs systematically assess farmers' needs in their respective geographical areas of responsibility.
Benchmark A.2— DAILs systematically design research and extension activities that directly address specific issues faced by farmers/herders.
Benchmark A.3— MAIL institutionalizes ability to vet research and extension work plans submitted by DAILs for technical and financial validity.
Benchmark A.4— DAILs systematically implement MAIL-approved research and extension work plans.
Strategic Goal B: Strengthen human resources management at MAIL to have a technically effective and motivated work force
Benchmark B.1— MAIL produces a map of critical needs positions and a plan to staff these positions.
Benchmark B.2— MAIL designs and implements a Workforce development plan intended to keep MAIL/DAIL research and extension employees' capabilities current.
Benchmark B.3— MAIL designs (revises existing) and implements an institutionalized plan to motivate its research and extension workforce.
Strategic Goal C: Systematic institutional incorporation of Gender into research and extension plans and activities.
Benchmark C.1— MAIL institutionalizes a policy to ensure each research and extension activity addresses gender (women farmers/herders directly benefit from these activities)
Benchmark C.2-- MAIL plans and implements a system to recruit female research and extension workers to ensure that MAIL can serve women farmers/herders
Strategic Goal D: Improved communication between DAIL Research and Extension offices and MAIL.
Benchmark D1—MAIL will design/revise and implement a communications system that allow for timely transfer of information between MAIL and DAILs
Strategic Goal E: An effective monitoring and evaluation system
Benchmark E1— MAIL designs and implements a monitoring and evaluation system which is capable of capturing activity outputs and outcomes.
Strategic Goal F: Effective and transparent system for funding MAIL/DAIL

¹ This list of Benchmarks and actions is the working list for IL1, these are not yet finalized and are subject to change. Future reports will reflect any changes.

activities addressing farmers/herders needs
Benchmark F1— MAIL institutionalizes a transparent procurement and funding process to provide DAIL-identified agricultural inputs and funding in a timely manner.
Strategic Goal G: Strengthening relationships with Afghan universities
Benchmark G.2 – Describes a system of publishing, vetting, and awarding requests for proposals from Afghan organizations (with a focus on universities) to solve specific research issues.
Strategic Goal H: Developing MAIL extension service delivery system
Benchmark H1— MAIL design and implement an extension service delivery system and plan to deliver research and extension content to Afghan farmers/herders in the targeted provinces via appropriate method of communication
Strategic Goal I: Refurbishment of MAIL/DAIL Research and Extension Centers' Infrastructure
Benchmark I1— MAIL designs and implements institutional policy for DAILs to request center rehabilitation and maintenance.

Annex 2

Current Mini-Proposals

Research or Extension	Title of Mini-Project	Locations	Project Description	Status	Activities In September 2013	Next Step	Conclusions Derived
Extension	Demonstration Vineyard	Kabul Province/District, Badam Bagh Farm	To prevent soil erosion, vagrancy for environment protection and irrigation layout and source for the demo plot	Nearing Completion	Documents for handover of this project to MAIL are in process.	Conduct form handover once approved	About to be handed over to MAIL
Extension	Promotion And Demonstration Of JICA Developed And Adapted Improved Rice Variety Using Modern Rice Production Practices Known As SRI	Kunar (6 villages in Narang district) and Laghman (6 villages in Qargee District)	Introducing improved technology and new improved varieties of rice.	Implementation	DAIL extension staff advised the demo plots owners to use a third dose of urea, weed regularly, and utilize the proper irrigation schedule.	Nearing harvest	Going as planned
Extension	Introduction Of Improved Maize(30k08)Variety And Improved Production Practices	Nangarhar Province, Sorkhroad district (6 plots)	To introduce improved technology and a new improved variety of corn to farmers. The method of cultivation will be raise bed.	Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head of extension reported to DAIL Director maize demo plots were attacked by steam borers. 4 demo plots in Surkhrod were destroyed by shortages of irrigation water. 	Conduct field days	2 demo plots are going well and 4 of them canceled due to shortages of canal water
Extension	Expansion Of Improved Red Clover Variety(Trifolium Pratense)	Paktiya Gardiz District (Karmashi, Shakar-Khail, Koacki-Khail Villages) and Ahmadabad district (Kowja-hail, Asak-Khail, Tarda-Khail Villages)	To demonstrate the yield advantages of the local higher yielding improved red clover variety and introduce new organic practices and techniques to reduce the production cost and increases the profitability. Eight demo plots will be established and managed by local farmers.	Proposal approved by MAIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 demo plots were selected (5 demo plots in Karmashi, Shakar Khail, Khataba, Hassankai and Kochi Khail villages in Gardiz district and 3 demo plots in Khowja Khail, Asak Khail and Tarda Khail villages of Ahmadabad district). Baseline and technical 	Agreements are to be signed with the 8 demo plots owners.	On target

Extension	Demonstrate And Introduce Improved Corn Variety (30k08) And Yield Production	Kandahar and Helmand	To introduce improved technology and a new improved variety of corn to farmers. The method of cultivation will be raise bed.	Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAIL extension staff visited the 12 demo plots of maize. During the visits found that all of the demo plots had good vegetative growth (cobs stage) and are irrigated according to schedule. • DAIL provided advice on weeding and treatments for stem borer pest. 	Continue with proper irrigation schedule.	On target
Extension	Introduction Of Improved Mung Bean Variety And Improved Production Methods	Urzgan Derahwood District (6 plots)	Demonstrate a high yielding pest and disease resistance variety of Mung Bean as well as improved production methods to increase farmers' income.	Implementation	Field days conducted by DAIL for 80 participants from DAIL, NGOs, progressive farmers, Mung Bean growers, and Urozgan agriculture faculty and students.	Completing field day reports	Going very well based on project plan
Extension	Saffron Cultivation Plots	Ghazni	Introduction of Saffron to increases farmer's incomes and to enhance the DAIL's capacity to respond to the needs of existing and new saffron producers.	Implementation	Farmers were selected in three districts (Karmashi, Shakar Khail and Kochi Khail). Contract signed with selected farmers	Inputs to be procured and distributed to the demo plots	Going very well based on the project plan
Research	Determining The Best Method To Control Melon Flies	Kunduz Research Center	Testing different methods for controlling melon fly. The demo plot will be divided into 12 sections using different techniques of bagging, pheromone traps and environmentally safe chemicals recommended by FAO.	Completed-Awaiting final report	Final report Drafted	Research department is working on drafted report	Successfully completed. Bagging was determined to be the best technique. Awaiting final report.

Research	Cultivation Of 11 New Improved Commercial Grape Varieties	Kabul Province/District, Badam Bagh Farm	To demonstrate the Red Globe, Crimson Seedless, Flame Seedless, Thomson Seedless, Parlet, Tashkent, Rubby, Fantasy, Exotic and Black Emerald varieties. To train the research and DAIL extension staff on trellising, best agriculture practices and proper documentation.	Implementation	Data collection is ongoing by Research Department and AGRED staff	50 trellis poles to be installed	DAIL staff has learned how to determine the number of trellis poles needed for a plot and how to determine when the vines are ready for trellising
Research	Comparing NM94 Variety Of Mung Bean To The Local Shin Mash Variety In Terms Of Yield	Kandahar	To demonstrate a high yielding pest and disease resistance variety of Mung Bean combined with the improved production methods to increase Mung Bean growers' income by reducing the production cost and increase the yields.	Implementation	DAIL Research Manager and 2 research staff visited the demo plot twice a week in the Kohkaharan research center. During the supervision they recommended a proper irrigation schedule for Mung Bean crops and gave instructions on proper field drying techniques. They also collected research data.	Last Field day will conducted and final report prepared	This project went well and the final report will be shared in the coming months.
Extension	Promotion Of Off-Season Vegetable Production Utilizing Plastic Tunnels	Paktya, Samangan and Sar-i-Pul	To build the capacity of DAIL staffs to promote off season crop production utilizing plastic tunnels.	Proposal Drafted	Proposal being reviewed by MAIL and AGRED staff	To be determined after review	Awaiting approval
Extension	Introduction Of Improved Wheat Varieties And Improved Production Methods	Samangan, Faryab, Badakshstan and Takhar	To demonstrate the yield advantages of the new higher yielding improved wheat variety and to introduce new organic practices and techniques.	Proposal Drafted	Proposal Being reviewed by MAIL and AGRED staff	To be determined after review	Awaiting approval

Extension	Equip DAIL Office With Computers for improved Extension Delivery	Logar	<p>To enhance the capacity of DAIL to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct technical research via the internet for improved extension services • Track demo plots and collate findings. • Develop required plans and budgets for MAIL • Increase their capacity in MS Office • Keep records on farmers, crops and production yields for improved decision making. 	Proposal Drafted	Proposal Being reviewed by MAIL and AGRED staff	To be determined after review	its drafted and shared with MAIL for endorsement
Research	Wheat Seeding Methodology Efficiency Trial	Herat	<p>Compare 3 different planting methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional seeding by hand, • Utilizing a new hand seeder machine, • Seeding in rows. <p>In order to demonstrate the efficiency of the hand seeder machine.</p>	Completed	Wheat harvested and production data collected.	Final report will be prepared and distributed.	Successfully completed. Awaiting final report